

Serial No: 09/703,802

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A network connection apparatus comprising:
at least one [[first]] external interface unit including at least one physical layer for connecting to an external network,
a [[plurality of second]] first internal interface [[units]] unit including [[plural]] a first type [[types]] of physical [[layers]] layer for connecting to an internal network,
[[and]]
a second internal interface unit including a second type of physical layer, which is different from said first type of physical layer, for connecting to the internal network, and
a controller for controlling said at least one external [[first]] interface unit, and said [[plurality of]] first and second internal interface units,
wherein one of said first and second internal interface units is capable of independent operation from said at least one [[first]] external interface unit, and said controller transmits and receives information [[among]] between said [[plurality of]] first and second internal interface units.

2. (Currently amended) The network connection apparatus of claim 1, wherein at least one of said first and second internal interfaces units is a detachable module.

3. (Original) The network connection apparatus of claim 2, wherein said module is detachable through a slot conforming to a PC card standard.

Serial No: 09/703,802

4. (Currently amended) The network connection apparatus of claim 1 or 2, wherein the information to be transmitted and received between said at least one external [[first]] interface unit and one of said first and second internal interface units, or between [[a plurality of]] said first and second internal interface units includes isochronous data.

5. (Currently amended) The network connection apparatus of claim 1 or 2, wherein one of said first and second internal interface units has a transmission speed of 10 Mbps or more.

6. (Currently amended) The network connection apparatus of claim 1 or 2, wherein said controller exclusively controls one of said first and second internal interface units.

7. (Currently amended) The network connection apparatus of claim 1 or 2, wherein one of said first and second internal interface units has buffer memory for reducing variation in transmission speed.

8. (Currently amended) The network connection apparatus of claim 1 or 2, wherein said [[first]] at least one external interface unit incorporates a cable modem.

9. (Currently amended) The network connection apparatus of claim 1 or 2, wherein said [[first]] at least one external interface unit uses a telephone line and incorporates a modem.

Serial No: 09/703,802

10. (Currently amended) The network connection apparatus of claim 1 or 2, wherein one of said first and second internal interface units is a wireless interface unit separated from a main body of the network connection apparatus.

11. (Original) The network connection apparatus of claim 10, wherein said wireless interface unit may be provided with an antenna.

12. (Currently amended) A network connection apparatus comprising:
at least one external interface unit including at least one physical layer for connecting to an external network,

a first internal interface unit including a first type of physical layer for connecting to an internal network,
a second internal interface unit including a second type of physical layer, which is different from said first type of physical layer, for connecting to the internal network,

an acquired information saver for saving information acquired from the external network, and

a controller for controlling said at least one external interface unit, and said first and second internal interface units,

wherein one of said first and second internal interface units is capable of independent operation from said at least one external interface unit, and

said controller transmits and receives information between said first and second internal interface units, and acquires desired information

Serial No: 09/703,802

by accessing the external network through said at least one [[first]] external interface unit, and saves the information in said acquired information saver.

13. (Currently amended) The network connection apparatus of claim 12, further comprising a connection request information saver for saving the connection request information from a client connected to one of said first and second internal interface units,

wherein said controller acquires the information to be saved in said acquired information saver by accessing the external network through said at least one external [[first]] interface unit on the basis of the information stored in said connection request information saver.

14. (Original) The network connection apparatus of claim 12 or 13, further comprising display means,

wherein said display means indicates storage of the information in said acquired information saver.

15. (Original) The network connection apparatus of claim 12 or 13, wherein the information stored in said acquired information saver is isochronous data.

16. (Original) The network connection apparatus of claim 12 or 13, wherein said acquired information saver is a detachable module.

Serial No: 09/703,802

17. (Currently amended) The network connection apparatus of claim 1, further comprising access information applying means for providing a client connected to one of said first and second internal interface units with information about access,

wherein said controller further provides said client with the information about access by said access information applying means when it is recognized that the client is connected to one of said first and second internal interface units.

18. (Original) The network connection apparatus of claim 17, wherein the information about access is at least IP address.

19. (Original) The network connection apparatus of claim 18, wherein the number of IP addresses is variable, and the number of connected clients is controlled.

20. (Currently amended) The network connection apparatus of claim 1, further comprising access information acquiring means for acquiring information about access from an Internet service provider connected through said at least one ~~[[first]]~~ external interface unit,

wherein said controller further acquires the information about access from said access information acquiring means when it is recognized that said at least one ~~[[first]]~~ external interface unit is connected to the Internet service provider.

21. (Currently amended) The network connection apparatus of claim 20, wherein said access information acquiring means acquires the information about access from said

Serial No: 09/703,802

Internet service provider, relating to media access control (MAC) address of the client connected to one of said first and second internal interface units ~~unit~~.

22. (Original) The network connection apparatus of claim 20 or 21, wherein the information about access is at least IP address.

23. (Currently amended) The network connection apparatus of claim 1, further comprising access information acquiring means for acquiring information about first access from an Internet service provider connected through said at least one ~~[[first]]~~ external interface unit, and access information applying means for providing a client connected to one of said first and second internal interface units with information about second access,

wherein said controller further acquires the information about first access from said access information acquiring means when it is recognized that said at least one external ~~[[first]]~~ interface unit is connected to the Internet service provider, and provides said client with the information about second access by said access information applying means when it is recognized that the client is connected to one of said first and second internal interface units.

24. (Currently amended) The network connection apparatus of claim 23, wherein said access information acquiring means acquires the information about access from said Internet service provider, relating to media access control (MAC) address of the client connected to one of said first and second internal interface units.

Serial No: 09/703,802

25. (Original) The network connection apparatus of claim 23 or 24, wherein the information about first access is a first IP address, and the information about second access is a second IP address.

26. (Original) The network connection apparatus of claim 25, wherein the number of second IP addresses is variable, and the number of connected clients is controlled.

27. (Original) The network connection apparatus of claim 25, further comprising IP address varying means for translating said first IP address and second IP address.

28. (Original) The network connection apparatus of claim 26, further comprising IP address varying means for translating said first IP address and second IP address.

29. (New) The network connection apparatus of claim 1, wherein said first type of physical layer is one of Ethernet, telephone line, optical fiber, coaxial cable, power line, and wireless device.

30. (New) The network connection apparatus of claim 12, wherein said first type of physical layer is one of Ethernet, telephone line, optical fiber, coaxial cable, power line, and wireless device.